GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Setting up of Ripening Chambers
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25-30 per cent of fruits and vegetables go waste in transit before reaching the consumers from the field of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is considering to promote ripening chambers to avoid the wastage and have quality products, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government for setting up of ripening chambers in various States of the country; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient information and training to farmers in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): A study was commissioned by Ministry of Food Processing Industries and carried out by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The report of the study published in 2015, estimated that quantum of quantitative harvest and post harvest losses of agricultural produce were in the range of 4.65% to 5.99% (cereals), 6.36% to 8.41% (pulses), 3.08% to 9.96% (oil seeds), 6.70% to 15.88% (fruits), 4.58% to 12.44% (vegetables), 5.23% to 10.52% (fish), 2.71% (meat) and 0.92% (milk). The post-harvest losses are on account of harvesting operations, collection, sorting, grading, transportation, storage and inadequate market infrastructure facilities.

(c) & (d): Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic development of horticulture in the country including creation of post harvest management infrastructure to reduce losses of perishable horticulture produce. Post harvest management component includes establishment of setting up of pack house, pre-cooling, primary processing, cold chain, refrigerated transport, ripening chambers etc.
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These components are demand & entrepreneur driven for which credit linked back ended subsidy is available through respective State Horticulture Missions. An entrepreneur can avail assistance for establishment of ripening chamber @ 35% of admissible project cost in general areas and @ 50% in hilly and schedule area as credit linked and back ended subsidy. The admissible cost for ripening chamber is Rs. 1.00 lakh per MT limited to maximum of 300 MT capacity. State wise assistance sanctioned under MIDH for establishment of ripening chambers is annexed.

(e): Capacity building of field staff and farmers is one of the major components of MIDH. State Horticulture Missions are organizing regular training programmes and workshops on Post-harvest Management (PHM) including ripening chambers for the benefit of farmers and entrepreneurs. Further, National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD), an autonomous organization under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is holding workshops and training programmes in various parts of the country for ripening chamber operators and farmers for awareness and technical information for establishment and running of ripening chambers.